

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-49 were rejected. By the present Response, claims 1, 21, 26, 39 and 41 are amended, and claims 4, 25, 27, 40 and 45-49 are canceled. New claims 50 and 51 have been added. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-3, 5-24, 26, 28-39, 41-44 and 50-51 will remain pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Applicant would first wish to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 12-20 and 32-38, and the allowability of the subject matter of claims 2-5, 10, 11, 27-29 and 40-44.

By the present response, the allowable subject matter of claim 4 has been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 1 and its remaining dependent claims are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Similarly, the subject matter of claim 27, along with that of claim 25, has been incorporated into independent claim 21. Claim 21 is therefore in condition for allowance. Applicants note that claim 26 has been amended to correct its dependency in view of the cancellation of claim 25. Claim 39 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 40, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Claim 41 has been amended to correct its dependency in view of the cancellation of claim 40.

By this response, a new claim 50 has been added which is an independent claim incorporating the subject matter of original claims 1 and 10. Claim 10, having been indicated as allowable by the Examiner, new claim 50 is also allowable. Claim 51 recites subject matter similar to that of original claim 11, also indicated as allowable by the Examiner.

In view of the amendments made by this response, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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